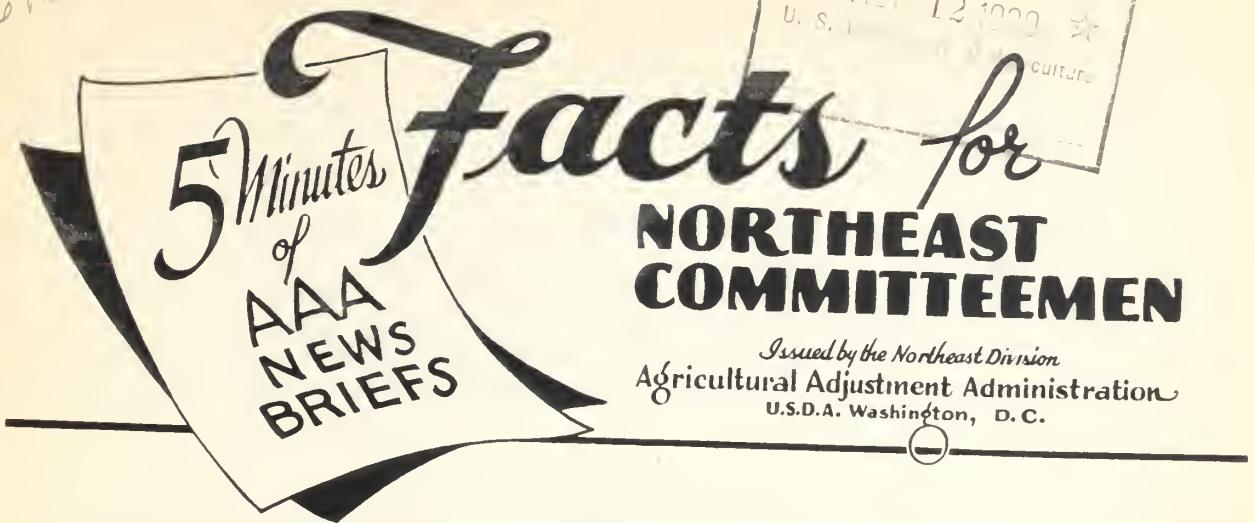


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Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANS 1940 FARM PROGRAM

*State Committeemen in Three-Day Session Lay Greater Emphasis on Conservation.
Vegetable Program Becomes More National in Scope.*

Recommendations that will form the basis of the 1940 AAA farm program were agreed upon at the national AAA conference in Washington, July 10-12. Attended by state committeemen and other representatives from all over the country, the conference recommended that next year's program place still greater emphasis on soil conservation, increase the opportunities for small farmers to participate, and put more administrative responsibility in the hands of committeemen. The changes suggested will simplify administration, or make the program more effective as a conservation measure.

The Washington conference brought together into a national program the recommendations previously developed at community, county, state, and regional meetings of farmers and committeemen. Among the important recommendations adopted, of particular interest to the northeast, is one establishing a minimum soil-building allowance of \$20 per farm. Another makes possible the earning of an amount up to \$30 per farm for reforestation, in addition to the regular soil-building allowance for the farm.

"This national AAA conference in mid-July gives farmers in 1940 a better opportunity than ever before to know well in advance of the planting season what the program has to offer them," R. M. Evans, AAA Administrator, told the conference. "Farmers also have the assurance that the program will continue next year almost the same as it has been this year."

"The reports of the farmer-committeemen and the 1939 participation figures indicate that farmers generally are accepting this program. Farmers have this year, more than ever before, the necessary means to meet their

problems. The commodity loan, export, and surplus removal phases of the farm program are available to meet the problems of handling crops after they are produced, and the conservation phases of the program provide for farmers cooperating to adjust production through a better use of their land. Combined, these parts of the farm program mean an effective ever-normal granary, increased soil conservation, and abundant production.

"The changes recommended for the 1940 program, and the additional duties placed upon state and local committeemen in the handling of the field administration of crop insurance and loans means a greater responsibility upon the committeemen. This is in line with the established policy of the AAA to decentralize administration of the program wherever possible, by placing local responsibility upon the committeemen elected each year by their neighbors."

Recommendations for the 1940 vegetable program, formulated at a conference of commercial growers preceding the national conference, will continue the present vegetable program with little change. The significance of the vegetable recommendations is that next year the program will be more widely extended over the country - more truly a national program.

The vegetable conference approved a recommendation that any county having 200 or more acres of commercial vegetables be considered a commercial vegetable county, unless the distribution of commercial vegetables from such a county is confined to small local markets, with no tendency toward acreage expansion.

Other recommendations declare that no more expansion in vegetable acreage is needed or justified; that as a rule no vegetable allotment of less than 3 acres be made; that such perennial crops as rhubarb, artichokes, asparagus, strawberries, and mint be put in a separate classification in areas where requested by the state committees; that provision should be made for the vegetable year to run from September 1 to August 30 in states or portions of states where recommended by the state committee; and that the provisions of the 1940 vegetable program should be announced not later than August 10.

Other recommendations approved by the conference, to form the basis upon which the specific provisions of the 1940 farm program will be drafted, are:

That a larger proportion of the total available funds be provided for soil-building payments;

That a new practice be established providing for the control of erosion of farm land along active streams by rip-rap or rock construction;

That established soil-building practices be so worded as to encourage protection of wildlife;

That the grants-of-aid program be continued in 1940 on a basis similar in most respects to that of 1939;

That flooding cranberry bogs continuously until July 1 be accepted as a practice;

That the orchard mulching practice also apply to vegetables;

That the use of superphosphate on green manure crops in orchards be approved as a practice.

SECRETARY WALLACE ADDRESSES CONFERENCE

Secretary Wallace, in his remarks during the closing session of the national AAA conference, told the committeemen that the program this year has a higher percentage of national participation than ever before, and "is really beginning to flow smoothly for the first time. Not all our troubles are over," he said, "but we are moving forward with a greater degree of confidence, happiness, and assuredness of success than at any time." Additional excerpts from the Secretary's talk follow:

"I think you have cause for rejoicing that we can look forward to 1940 in the assurance that there will be very few and only minor changes in the program. Three years in succession with only minor changes; yes, we are going to go places.

"The way all things are really done in this world is by a process of spiritual contagion. It is amazing what a powerful thing it is. With all your radio and all the press, in the final analysis you can't get away from it that nothing equals face-to-face talking, because then the people can see that you really mean what you are saying and they can read in your face those things which are not said by words.

"I would like to talk for a little while on the very special considerations affecting the farm program which come out of the cities of the United States and out of the cities of Europe. I used to say that only one-half of the farm program is on the farm. I am beginning to think now only one-third is on the farm; one-third is in the cities in the United States, and one-third is in the cities outside of the United States. That is probably not an accurate division but it will serve the purpose.

"I question whether one farmer in 100,000 appreciates the degree to which the world demand for farm products would have plunged prices of farm products in this country to the bottommost levels if it hadn't been for our various Governmental devices which we have employed during the last two years. I question whether one farmer in 100,000 appreciates the degree to which the various dictatorial tactics have cut off purchasing power from abroad for our farm products. The price of wheat at Liverpool yesterday (July 11), I believe, was around 53 cents. Somebody told me it was the lowest in the history of England. I don't know whether that is true or not, I haven't checked it. It probably is the lowest in several hundred years, maybe a little lower than it was in 1932. Carry that on back to the Kansas or Oklahoma farms and you find it means perhaps 20 cents a bushel. Actually, however, wheat has been selling out there for about 60 cents.

"There have been folks who wanted to get away from the greater part of the wheat program, the export subsidy, the loan, and the parity payment. If all of that had been done, we would have had wheat prices of perhaps 20 cents a bushel, plus the soil-conservation payment, that might have given a total of 30 cents. I suspect that not one wheat farmer in 1000 appreciates how close wheat farmers were to a wheat price situation of that sort for this coming year.

"It is a terrific storm that is going on out there (in the world), and we have what amounts to a wall 1,000 feet high here shutting off the wind. We didn't shut it off completely and we won't be able to shut it off indefinitely unless this world picture straightens out. Let me illustrate. This year we are exporting only 1% as much lard as we used to export to Germany. Germany used to be our second largest lard market. Well, what does that mean to the hog farmer, what does it mean to the cotton farmer by way of cottonseed oil, because lard and cottonseed oil are almost completely competitive.

"This current year, Germany has taken only about one-fifth as much cotton as she used to take. Of course Germany and Italy and practically all of Europe are only taking about 60% as much wheat as they used to take.

"Those situations which have grown out of the World War, and more recently out of the dictators, do mean that we have to farm differently in the United States. We can take care of part of the situation temporarily by means of export subsidies in the case of some crops, in an endeavor to hold on to a part of a market which we formerly enjoyed, but which is in danger of slipping away from us because of competition coming from other nations. We can do a part of that. We can handle a part of the situation by the acreage adjustment program. We can handle a part of the situation by stimulating increased consumption in the cities of the United States.

"This matter of handling one-third of the problem that exists in the cities of the United States has to do, of course, particularly with the 8 or 9 million unemployed, and that in turn has to do with the failure of private capital to flow in adequate quantities, because it has been scared ever since 1930, and of course that failure of private capital to flow again goes back to the forces flowing out of the great war and out of the dictatorships.

"I conclude on this note, that we are all of us part of something that is tremendously big. The suffering of the post-war years has created an agricultural entity. The agriculture of the nation now does have a soul; it has a body; it has a will; it has purpose, and every last person in this room is a part of that. It is really an inspiring thing to be a part of that tremendous movement toward which so many thousands of people have contributed their very best thoughts, their deepest feelings."

A new phase of the 1939 AAA exhibit program is a small light-weight exhibit in color for use at county and small fairs. In the center is an animated display showing the relationship between the volume of supply of farm products and price and their effect on the consumer and the farmer. On each side of the center is a diorama pertaining to the conservation program on the farm. The exhibit is 10 or 12 feet long, about 3-1/2 feet high, and is displayed on a table on which the county committee can place a local exhibit showing the application of the program in the county. Five of these county exhibits are available for the Northeast Region. Any county committee interested in securing one should communicate with its state office.